



ofgorganic.org

Technical Newsletter



September 2018 Issue 119

General News



UK Organic Congress @CongressOrganic #UKOrganicCongress

The Organic Congress is a joint initiative between:



Organic Congress

15-16 November 2018

Location: [Dunchurch Park Hotel, near Rugby](#)

The UK Organic Congress 2018 is a new event organised jointly by leading organic organisations including the Organic Research Centre, Landworkers' Alliance, Organic Arable, Organic Farmers & Growers, Organic Growers Alliance, Organic Trade Board, Soil Association and Whole Health Agriculture.

It has been organised for:

- Farmers, growers and land managers
- Food businesses in organic supply chains, including input suppliers, retailers and caterers
- Professionals that engage with the sector, including consultants,

land agents, bank managers and researchers

- Government agency officials and policy makers
- Farming, environmental and food NGOs who work with producers and food businesses
- And many more!

Underpinning organic food and farming are some big ideas about how to make a better world. The organic approach cares about things that affect us all - health, welfare, the environment, fairness, quality and sustainability. Communicating this needs a focus on real benefits, while building bridges with others. The Congress will feature a new, positive vision for the contribution that organic can make to UK food and farming, including an aspiration to be up there with the best in terms of production and market shares.

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For further information please see the Congress flyer attached with this newsletter.

Ticket are available from the Eventbrite website -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uk-organic-congress-2018-tickets-48905810596>

Early bird prices are for a limited number of tickets and will expire as soon as those tickets are sold.



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Grain Lab

As founder members of the UK Grain Lab we are very proud to announce the 2018 Grain Lab national event. This is a meeting of farmers, millers, plant breeders, bakers, cooks, scientists and academics providing an opportunity to bake together, eat, drink, learn from each other and talk about the future.

The 2018 edition will accommodate 120 attendees, spread over three different venues all in Nottingham.

The two days will include talks, workshops, group discussion, shared meals and music presented by and for people working with grain.

Topics will include innovation in plant breeding, soil and grain diversity, sharing and collaboration; sustainable farming practices; new food production business models and techniques, food security and sovereignty.

Our vision is for shorter, healthier, and more diverse supply chains, where provenance is celebrated and rewarded. We will share stories, skills and strategies inspired by visitors from around the world with a view to advancing a more diverse UK-based grain economy.

For more information and to purchase tickets please check out the dedicated website www.ukgrainlab.com



Defra Technical Paper (Brexit)

There were a number of positives arising from the recent publication of the Government's Technical Paper on Organic. These were:

- It has been confirmed that we will be adopting the EU regulation
- there will be a period of grace with regard to the use of the EU leaf logo
- the Government have indicated that they will continue to allow imports of organic materials into the UK at their discretion.
- The UK would continue to maintain our high standards of food production and labelling.
- UK organic control bodies would be able to continue certifying UK organic operators for trade within the UK.
- the UK intends to continue to recognise those countries currently equivalent to the EU.

Therefore the import and export of organic goods to or from countries such as the USA, Canada, Japan and South Korea should only be minimally disrupted, if at all.

There were question marks over the new TRACES system for imports but these could be overcome by reverting, even for a short time, to the process previously implemented.

However the key area of concern is around the ability of UK organic businesses to continue exporting to the EU. As a consequence of this uncertainty OF&G are working to secure assurances from Government that the necessary precautions in place

to ensure continued trade of organic produce with the EU in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit. There has been speculation about how the UK will continue to trade organic goods with the EU if a deal isn't reached and the Government's technical paper released last month has done little to allay these.

Currently, in the event of the UK becoming a 'third country', any European organic control body from within the UK or the EU must apply for equivalence to the EU Commission to operate in that 'third country' under Annex 4 of Regulation 1235/2008. However, the process cannot proceed until the UK is deemed to be a 'third country' which could well be not until 1st April 2019. The application process normally takes around nine months.

OF&G understand that if there is a transition period agreed then the application process could take place during that period but in the event of a 'no-deal', while the Defra technical notice provided some assurance that possible solutions were being 'explored', there was no detail so there clearly is a need for a contingency plan immediately.

In the event of the most disruptive outcome through a 'no-deal' the best way to alleviate the disruption would be for Government to have an agreed equivalence agreement ready to be ratified on Brexit Day, similar to the ones identified in the Brexit technical paper with the USA, Canada, Japan and South Korea.

But, with just over five months to go, time is running out and it is important

that discussions start now. It should be fairly easy to negotiate an equivalence agreement with the EU as the UK will adopt EU regulation directly and so will in fact be compliant and so should be deemed equivalent by default.

An alternative option is for the EU to unilaterally accept organic imports from the UK in recognition and consideration of the interdependency of the organic supply chain across the EU, as Government has indicated they are prepared to do so for all organic imports coming into the UK.

A further option is that Government could apply for the UK to be deemed a country of equivalency under Annex 3 of Regulation 1235/2008. Again, this is a prolonged process but could be fast tracked if all parties want this outcome.

Roger Kerr, OF&G's CEO and the current UK Council Representative for IFOAM EU was at the latest IFOAM EU Council Meeting on 24 September and has gained agreement of support from IFOAM EU to work with agencies and organic organisations across the EU to support the resolution of the this problem to ensure trade continues to flow regardless of the final nature of the EU/UK agreement.

OF&G want to see communications between Defra and the EU Commission begin to ensure the necessary contingencies are in place in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit and will be pushing to ensure an 'equivalency agreement' is secured well ahead of the March deadline. If you have any influence on this through your contacts please do what you can to help.

Market Information

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable:

The organic market made gains following harvest alongside the conventional market and as the conventional retreats, so the organic feed market is seemingly under pressure with cheaper offers being made. This is of Turkish origin which is not a regular supplier to the UK and seems to be pricing aggressively to establish a foothold in the market. One buyer reported that feed wheat values could be "below £300 delivered" because of this new supply. This as well as plentiful supplies of maize imported prior to the UK harvest seems to be keeping feed values in check. UK wheat area has fallen once again and whilst winter wheat yields are reasonably good – achieving average yields or slightly above - spring wheat was far more variable. Spring wheat quality is reasonably good with proteins generally higher but still too few samples are achieving the levels the millers would like to see. Milling wheat prices remain good with values around £330 ex farm. Feed wheat has been trading at £290 - £295 ex farm and it will be interesting to see how these values are maintained in light of imported offers.

Whilst UK feed grains remain a residual supply to imported it is difficult to see a change from the current trend of UK growers seeking the quality markets ahead of the feed markets.

The oat market has seen prices rise as spring oat quality is generally poor and whilst oat millers work to understand what proportion of this they can use there are strong prices available for the right quality. Values between £310 -£320 are achievable. It seems likely that more feed oats will be available this season than in recent years. Oat areas across Scandinavia and Baltic states increased significantly this season and apart from poor harvests they would have had large export volumes. For the first time oats have been offered by a Ukrainian supplier.

The malting barley market is strong again this season with demand in Europe good and prices are as good as they were last season. Quality is generally good although some samples are showing signs of reduced germination. Spring barley seems to have performed generally better through the dry spring than spring oats. Values of £330 are achievable for the right sample.

Beans did not yield well. Several buyers are reporting cover taken on imported peas and so opportunities for early movement of beans is more challenging. Once the peas have been used and dairy farmers start moving "straights" opportunities will improve. Soya is at the lowest value for several years which will limit bean values.

For more information please call Andrew on 08456 521 706

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

The lack of forage availability and cost of feed is having a detrimental effect on the value of store cattle this Autumn compared to a year ago.

Some areas were hit by the Summer drought worse than others. As a general rule of thumb, south of the M62 was hit worse than north of the M62. Whilst forage stocks in the north of the country are low, they are not quite as low as the south of England. Producers who are on light land with a good flush of Autumn grass will be able to keep cattle outdoors for longer and reduce the time cattle are kept inside during the winter. Despite the low feed cost we are managing to market good numbers of organic store cattle, albeit at lower prices than last year. The larger cattle, 450 kgs plus are actually in good demand with small cattle harder to sell.

TB restricted cattle are a challenge to move, particularly the small sized cattle but again we have managed to move most of what is booked in.

We have several herds of organic cows and followers for sale at the moment and some smaller groups of dairy cattle.

For further information please call David Bostock, mobile: 07734 808050 or the office: 01829 730580.

Book your store cattle in good time. Please call Peter Jones, mobile 07720 892922 or the office: 01829 730580.

After experiencing one of the driest Summers on record the weather has started to revert to a normal pattern which has thankfully been accepted by many producers. With the rain came a little more optimism and we have seen a reduction in the numbers of finished organic cattle coming forward for slaughter. However, with the number of cattle that have already gone through the system we may see a shortfall later in the year which could well enhance the prices.

The trade for organic cull cows has coped well with the increased numbers coming forward during the Summer although inevitably this did have a downward impact on price, it was not as serious as it could have been and has retained a good level throughout.

Average R4L Organic utm Cattle in spec @ 413p/kg deadweight.

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 305p/kg deadweight.

The same massive shortage of grass over the Summer has seen the lamb trade bouncing around and as the grass has returned so have the numbers offered to the market but unfortunately aren't necessarily carrying the quality required plus the slow growth has seen finished weights and grading causing an issue in some cases.

Average R3L Organic NSL in spec @415p/kg deadweight.

For further information on the marketing of finished stock please call Tim Leigh on 01763 250313 or mobile 07850 366404.

Dairy stock contact David Bostock on 01829 735080 or 07734 808050.

We would also encourage you to visit our web site www.peterjoneslivestock.co.uk

Technical News

Inspection Paperwork

Can you please ensure that all paperwork relating to your inspection - for example annual questionnaire, residue testing questionnaire, declaration and licensing agreement - are sent to our office in Shrewsbury along with any supporting evidence regarding your inspection or Compliance Notice.

We have found some licensees are sending the information to the inspector who then has to forward it, causing delay and difficulties. Our postal and email address is at the bottom of the front page of this newsletter

Producers

OrganicXseeds

When looking to plant new seeds that have not been home saved from organic land the organic standards require you to, in the first instance, source organic seed. If organic seed is not available or is not agronomically suitable for your land/system and you can provide adequate justification of this to OF&G we may permit the use of non-organic untreated seed. In order to ensure farmers across Europe have access to organic seed where this is available FiBL has created a website allowing seed suppliers to list their organic seed availability.

Within the UK if you are looking to source seed for sowing into organic/ converting land you should first check the UK pages of this website at www.organicxseeds.com. There you will be able to search for the availability of organic seed. If you can not find organic seed of the species you wish to grow (Barley, Wheat etc...) or you can not find a variety with the agronomic characteristics you are looking for you may apply for approval to use non-organic, untreated, seed. The use of any non-organic seed other than that in a 70% grass/forage mixture must be applied for and approved prior to the sowing of the seed. Record Sheet 4a must be used when applying to use non-organic seed.

Using external contractors

Many operators will use outside contractors on the farm, whether for forage harvesting, mobile seed cleaning and dressing or even mobile mill and mix. More often than not

those contractors are not required to be registered with an organic control body (such as OF&G) to carry out that operation. Without any form of third party check it is incumbent on you as the registered farmer to ensure that any machinery brought on to the organic unit by the contractor is free of any non-organic material that could, potentially, contaminate your organic products. You must not only ensure that the machinery is clean and free of material but also keep a record of the checks you have undertaken and make this available for your inspector when requested. This will avoid any possible contamination issues that could lead to problems with the status of your organic products.

Forage shortages

Now we are nearing the end of September many areas have seen rain that has, together with the soil temperatures, allowed for some grass growth and extra forage cuts. Many farms have also taken the opportunity to plant brassica and/or forage rye crops in order to try and extend the grazing season at the end of this year and in the early spring (weather permitting). Whilst many farms have seen grass growth recently we suspect the critical time, when farms will struggle for feed to be near to January or February 2019. With that in mind it is essential that, if you haven't already done so, you assess your forage stocks for the coming winter and plan accordingly. If you need to buy in forage you should be starting to make provision now and can do this by looking in the following places:

OF&G Classifieds - <http://ofgorganic.org/classifieds/for-sale/>

SOPA Classifieds - <http://www.sopa.org.uk/classifieds>

Soil Association Market Place - <https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/farming/organic-market-place/>

If you require any further information you should contact your Certification Officer.

Processors

Requirement for Organic Lecithin

Lecithin (E322), whether from sunflower, soya or other, is used as an emulsifier and release agent in many

products. In 2016, regulation 2016/673/EC updated the organic regulation 889/2008. Most of the changes have already been implemented without major impact - 2016/673/EC also bought in the requirement that lecithin must be used in organic form from 1 January 2019.

Some operators have already made the change. This is just to remind those who still have to change that lecithin, in all organic products, must be certified organic from that date.

However, products made with non-organic lecithin BEFORE 1 January 2019 may continue to be sold after that date as long as it is correctly declared on the label.

OF&G asks all processors, who are still using non-organic lecithin, to consider changing to organic lecithin. Please resubmit MIPS (Record sheet 42), for products affected, and include the certificate(s) of the supplier(s) of the organic lecithin. You may also need to review and submit labels for products to ensure that the lecithin is correctly labelled as organic. New labels must be approved by OF&G.

The OF&G processing team will review MIPS & provide renewed approval for the amended products and labels.

If you buy and sell an organic product that contains lecithin, please check that the lecithin is organic and labelled as such. If it is not, please remind your supplier that they must consider changing to organic lecithin. Remember that you or your supplier may need to amend labels as the new organic lecithin is used.

OF&G auditors will check the status of lecithin in products you produce and/or sell under OF&G certification at your next audit. Before 1 January, if an auditor finds that your lecithin is not organic, they will issue an information request and ask how and when you will change to organic lecithin.

From 1 January 2019 our auditors will record a non-compliance if they find an operator using non-organic lecithin. Please contact your Certification Officer if you have any questions.

Organic in the News

When the headlines don't meet the research

A paper was published recently that sets out to examine some of the effects of food production systems alongside maintenance of a more natural environmental habitat.

The headlines in the farming press - *Organic systems accrue larger environmental costs than conventional, says new research*

<https://www.fginsight.com/news/organic-systems-accrue-larger-environmental-costs-than-conventional-says-new-research-70406>

Intensive farming may be less damaging than organic, study finds

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/news/environment/intensive-farming-may-be-less-damaging-than-organic-study-finds>

The title of the research paper they refer to is - **The environmental costs and benefits of high-yield farming.**

The research goes into quite a lot of detail. And it describes the need for more work to be done and that a level of overall appreciation alongside close examination of all of the detail is key to interpreting any findings. Within the opening introduction it makes this quite clear -

Our conclusions are limited: remarkably few studies report externalities alongside yields; many important externalities and farming systems are inadequately measured; and realizing the environmental benefits of high-yield systems typically requires additional measures to limit farmland expansion. Nevertheless, our results suggest that trade-offs among key cost metrics are not as ubiquitous as sometimes perceived.

So, is organic worse for the environment than non-organic? We don't believe it is. And without the necessary detail we would question the efficacy of what appears to be, in the farming press, an overly simplistic account that we would ask, is this really offering anything of use to what is a very important debate?

The organic approach is to maintain good food production within a whole farming system. Through the cycling of energy within the system organic combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity,

the preservation of natural resources and the application of high animal welfare standards.

One of the areas where a high-yield non-organic system will be open to serious question is over the amount of energy expended and the effects on the environment as a result of that system of food production. Artificial nitrogen as used within the vast majority of non-organic food systems has massive impacts on global greenhouse gas emissions. And not only on a field-by-field basis. Before ammonium nitrate arrives on the farm the process used to produce such fertiliser requires around 3% of global gas requirements.

For a well informed overview of that process this piece by Tim Harford is very clear;

How fertiliser helped feed the world: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-38305504>

Here is an extract -

To produce 160 million tonnes of ammonia a year - the majority of which is used for fertiliser - the Haber-Bosch process today consumes more than 1% of all the world's energy. That is a lot of carbon emissions.

Only some of the nitrogen in fertiliser makes its way via crops into human stomachs, perhaps as little as 15%. Most of it ends up in the air or water.

Compounds like nitrous oxide are powerful greenhouse gases. They pollute drinking water. They also create acid rain, which makes soils more acidic, disrupting ecosystems, and threatening biodiversity.

When nitrogen compounds run-off into rivers, they likewise promote the growth of some organisms more than others. The results include ocean "dead zones", where blooms of algae near the surface block out sunlight and kill the fish below.

The Haber-Bosch process is not the only cause of these problems, but it is a major one, and it is not going away. Demand for fertiliser is projected to double in the coming century.

In truth, scientists still do not fully understand the long-term impact on the environment of converting so much stable, inert nitrogen from the air into various other, highly reactive

chemical compounds.

To conclude, we commend Professor Balmford and his team for their honesty in reporting what they see as vital detail in comparing food production systems. In their conclusion they state that there are many details that still need resolution -

We close by stressing that for high-yield systems to generate any environmental benefits they must be coupled with efforts to reduce rebound effects. Several plausible mechanisms for limiting these by explicitly linking yield growth to improved environmental performance have been identified—including strict land-use zoning; strategic deployment of yield-enhancing loans, expertise or infrastructure; conditional access to markets; and restructured rural subsidies.

Without such linkages, systems that perform well per unit production may nevertheless cause net environmental harm through higher profits or lower prices stimulating land conversion, and damage human health by encouraging overconsumption of cheap, calorie-rich but nutrient-deficient foods.

If promising high-yield strategies are to help solve rather than exacerbate society's challenges, yield increases instead need to be combined with far-reaching demand-side interventions and directly linked with effective measures to constrain agricultural expansion.

What our species - and all species on the Earth - need is for us humans to have a sustainable food production and consumption strategy, one that is both resilient and regenerative. We believe that organic offers this. We don't require an intensification of food production with only yield as the core function. We do need an integrated approach to food and health for us and for our environment.

The original paper cited in this piece is reported in the Farmers Weekly and the Farmers Guardian and it is reported by the University of Cambridge here -

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/high-yield-farming-costs-the-environment-less-than-previously-thought-and-could-help-spare-habitats>

Further reading - Strategies for feeding the world more sustainably with organic agriculture - download it from <http://www.fao.org>

Stretching the reach of organic farming: developing seeds for action

Wednesday 17 October 2018

Bargehouse Gallery, Southbank, London

The English Organic Forum are inviting you to join the conversation on the case for supporting organic farming and the integral role the organic sector can play in the agendas of health, nature, climate change, sustainable economies and natural resources. They are hosting an afternoon of debate and discussion on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at London's Southbank Bargehouse Gallery from 2.30pm – 5pm.

The ongoing debate around Brexit with its implications for agriculture has opened the door to the potential for new and evolved identities for the farming and food sector - and the positive role it can have for society, the economy and the environment. With the recent publication of the

Government's Agriculture Bill and its emphasis on public goods the English Organic Forum wish to open up debate on how the organic sector fits within wider aspirations and how this may be realised. Should organic food be more widely available? Can we tell the story better? What are the economic and social possibilities from localised food systems? In what ways can we support the organic approach to land management to provide public goods beyond food production? In particular we want to develop actions that are possible in the next 5-10 years.

This is a key time for food and farming, and we want to scope out what opportunities there are for engaging with other parties or initiatives to collaborate, create new creative alliances and bring about a lasting change in the way food and farming are delivered in this country.

This afternoon session is one of a series of policy related events organised through the Gaia Foundation as part of their "We Feed the World" exhibition taking place in October this year. A photographic exhibition which documents the lives

of nearly 50 farming communities across six continents, it seeks to communicate the vital role of small scale agroecology. It will be accompanied by a ten-day programme of talks, films and workshops by international activists in the food and farming movement, artists and leading campaign groups. See:

<https://www.gaiafoundation.org/we-feed-the-world-is-coming-the-countdown-to-12th-october-begins/>

The workshop will take place within a public exhibition showcasing the benefits of organic farming and the vital role that scientific research has for the sector. There will be an opportunity for the public to share their views and feedback how they feel organic farming can be improved. In addition to our workshop event there will also be a Sustain Brexit discussion on Monday 15th October, a Land Workers Alliance session on policy delivery on Tuesday and a Good Food March organised by Gaia in collaboration with the LandWorkers Alliance on Sunday 14th October calling for changes to UK agricultural policy ahead of World Food Day on 16th October.

New Agriculture Bill (Bill 266)

With the publication of the new Agriculture Bill OF&G are pleased to see that farmers will be rewarded for delivering public goods such as improving air and water quality, providing habitats for wildlife, reducing flood risk, preventing climate change and improving animal welfare, all of which organic farmers are already actively doing.

It is also good to see money will be set aside to support innovation and research which must include the much needed further development in

ecological farming approaches: a key component in delivering public goods.

It is also good to see that there will be a new regulatory culture as for many years the organic sector has had a highly effective inspection and certification framework.

Clearly there are concerns that those farmers that are already delivering on many areas the Government has identified in the Agriculture Bill are not fully recognised and rewarded for what they are delivering from a whole

farm perspective. We therefore look forward to working with Government on these and other areas within the new Agriculture Bill.

It is vital that the new Land Management Scheme recognises diversity of farming systems that, while producing food efficiently, also support the improvement of our environment and so ensure that we do truly deliver a Green Brexit for farmers, food manufacturers and consumers.

The full post is available on ofgorganic

<http://ofgorganic.org/new-agriculture-bill-offers-promise-but-lacks-details-says-ofg/>

Peter Melchett

At OF&G we were very saddened to learn of the death of Peter Melchett.

Peter moved through his life with equanimity whether he was walking the corridors of Westminster Palace or striding across the fields of his own farm or indeed striding across the fields of research farms during his long career as an environmental activist.

Colleagues at OF&G who worked closely with Peter over the years knew him to be a hugely intelligent and genuine man whose contribution to UK food and agriculture has been remarkable.

OF&G chief executive, Roger Kerr said,

"Peter always commanded the deepest respect from everyone he spoke with whether they agreed with him or not. Indeed while we didn't always see eye to eye I have always thought of Peter as a man of principle and passion and there are too few people like that in the world. At this very sad time we want to express our gratitude for the brilliant work that he did over his lifetime and to mourn his passing. Our thoughts are with Peter's family and friends."



OF&G in the News

Implications of a 'no-deal' Brexit

OF&G posted a press release commenting in response to a government paper outlining the implications of a 'no-deal' Brexit scenario -



<http://ofgorganic.org/organic-food-exports-at-mercy-of-eu-discretion-after-no-deal-brexite/>

This was picked up by several news agencies, including Pig World -

<http://www.pig-world.co.uk/news/organic-food-exports-at-mercy-of-eu-discretion-after-no-deal-brexite.html>

Yahoo news -

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/organic-food-suppliers-face-220-million-ban-exports-eu-no-deal-brexite-132928585.html>

And BBC Radio 4 -

OF&G chief executive Roger Kerr was interviewed on the BBC radio programme, PM broadcast on 23 August. Roger was invited on to the programme to talk about the news released from Westminster of the Government's plans for a 'no-deal' exit from the European Union.

During the interview Roger commented on the technical and economic issues for businesses trading in the organic sector. When asked about levels of confidence with the government as things stand he replied -

"Given Defra's assurances to date, no I'm not confident to secure exports then to some extent we're going to have to rely on goodwill of The European Commission"

Joint letter to the Prime Minister

On 28 August 2018 over 50 civil society groups sent a joint letter to the Prime Minister expressing strong support for the groundbreaking concept of paying farmers on the basis of providing public good outcomes including environmental, public health and animal welfare.

The full post is available via our website -

<http://ofgorganic.org/coalition-agriculture-bill-letter-to-the-prime-minister-august-2018/>

Staff News



Many of you will by now have spoken to our Producer Certification Officer **Laura Rowland**. Laura has been with us for just over three months and is progressing extremely well with her training, so much so that we thought we would give you a little bit more of an introduction to her. Laura has a long background in agriculture coming from a family of dairy farmers in Warwickshire and can be seen at weekends toiling away in the milking parlour at home. She particularly likes milking on those long hot summer days!!

Before joining OF&G Laura completed a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture at Harper Adams University, graduating in the summer of 2017. Following graduation she was appointed to the position of 'Agriculture Specialist' with Home and Countrywide (Countrywide Farmers).

When not in the office at OF&G or milking on the family farm Laura enjoys nothing better than socialising with friends through the Young Farmers Clubs.

Website and Social Media



<http://ofgorganic.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/organicfarmers>

<https://twitter.com/ofgorganic>

<https://www.instagram.com/ofgorganic>



OF&G licensees in the news

OF&G certify a number of schemes alongside the organic food and farming scheme. Pasture For Life is one of those and in a report in the Farmers Guardian on 12 September three OF&G licensees feature in a special report on PFL dairy.

Christine Page of Smiling Tree Farm in Shropshire, **Peter and Mary Fish at Challon's Combe** in Devon and **Mat Boley of Batch End Farm** in Somerset

are the three case studies looked at in detail as part of a piece on Pasture Fed Livestock Association approach to certifying dairy. Here is an excerpt from the article : -

The Pasture-Fed Livestock Association (PFLA) has started to certify UK dairy farms producing milk from cows that are only ever fed fresh and conserved grass and pasture.

The PFLA ran a pilot project in 2017 with eight farms including three micro-dairies (29 cows or fewer), two medium-scale farms (30 to 149 cows) and three large-scale farms (300 cows or more).

The results showed costs of production were lower than conventionally farmed

dairy herds, with no feed costs and often lower infrastructure and labour costs.

While less milk was produced, ranging from 2,433 to 4,500 litres a year on average per cow, the higher quality usually achieved a higher price – ranging from 40p/litre when sold wholesale for cheese, to £3/litre for direct retail.

The PFLA is currently in talks with 26 other dairy farmers about becoming certified and aims to encourage the development of new routes to market for farmers to service growing consumer interest.

<https://www.fginsight.com/vip/meet-the-uk-farmers-producing-grain-free-dairy-successfully-70162>

SOPA licensees the Lochhead family who farm at Beyond the Burn in Dumfries featured in a piece in the Farmers Guardian this month -

Organic farming family enjoys international breeding success

The Lochhead family has farmed at Beyond the Burn, Dumfries for nearly 100 years. But it was the conversion to

organic and introduction of the Brown Swiss breed which secured the farm's viability for generations to come.

Having taken numerous titles in the showing world, including reserve inter-breed at this year's Dairy Expo, the Kedar herd is not only the largest pedigree Brown Swiss herd in the UK but also one of the most decorated, despite being introduced after the 2001 foot-and-mouth outbreak.

Jonny says: "When we lost the herd, we had a big decision to make about the future of the farm," he says.

"We had just completed the two-year conversion process to organic and although we were already farming a relatively low input, extensive system, we'd made several changes across the farm business and this was an unexpected blow."

And finally we wish Natasha and Richard Mann the very best of luck. The couple who farm at Woodbridge in Suffolk have been shortlisted for the Farmers Weekly Beef Farmer of the Year 2018.

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/beef/farmers-weekly-awards-beef-farmer-year-finalists-2018>

Recently awarded approved inputs

A full list of approved inputs appears on our website <http://ofgorganic.org/approved-input/>

SUPPLIER	TELEPHONE	CATEGORY
Cemex UK	01788 517000	Soil Conditioners
Pan Agriculture Ltd	01480 467790	Fertilisers
Unibio A/S	+4563 104040	Animal Feed Additives
Saferock Minerals Ltd	01702 837650	Soil Conditioners

Updated approved inputs

A full list of approved inputs appears on our website <http://ofgorganic.org/approved-input/>

SUPPLIER	TELEPHONE	CATEGORY
Timac Agro UK Ltd	01582 958444	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements, Slurry Treatment, Soil Conditioners, Plant Health Product
John Hall Fertilisers Limited	01530 510060	Fertilisers
Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Fertilisers, Pest Control, Soil Conditioners, Plant Health Product
Biological Preparations T/A Agriprep Ltd	02920 674090	Silage Additive
Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Fertilisers, Plant Disease Control
Sea-Chem Ltd	01952 677002	Plant Health Product, Compost Additive
Dostofarm GmbH	+49 4488 84590	Animal Feed Additives
Mistry's Organic Ltd	0207 794 0848	Fertilisers

Classified Advertisements

Sept 2018 **Issue 119**



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Items for sale

Note: Purchasers should always check the current certificate and the status with the vendor. OF&G cannot take responsibility for any stock, items or services sold through this service. Advertisements are accepted at OF&G's discretion.

SHEEP FOR SALE				
Organic lambs	13 x Organic Shropshire cross Ewe lambs for sale. Born April 2017	Farokh Khorrooshi	01296 711107	Buckingham, Bucks
Small flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep	Retirement sale of small flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep. Registered closed flock. Soil Association registered Organic. 47 mixed age ewes. 27 April born lambs. 1 x 2yr old ram.	Patricia Plume	01550 740670	Llandoverly, Camarthenshire
Organic mule shearlings	300 very smart organic mule shearlings	Mike Roberts	07774 208040	Heathfield, East Sussex
Lleyn rams	Selection of signet recorded and MV accredited Pedigree Lleyn rams 2 year old and Yearlings. Outdoor lambing flock.	Tim	07432 190368	Bromyard, Hereford/Worcs
Yearling ewes	35-40 pedigree Lleyn ewes for sale, outdoor lambing flock, grass only feeding, born April/May 2017. MV accredited and Signet recorded.	Tim	07432 190368	Bromyard, Hereford/Worcs
Organic flock for sale	400 ewe texel mixed age organic flock for sale, closed flock for 15 years, most lambs sold as E & U grade. Can split as required.	Ian Sneade	07740 409825 / 01686 640295	Montgomery, Powys
50 texel cross ewes 4 and 5 yo	t50 texel cross ewes 4 and 5 yo 55-60kg	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
Organic Store Lambs	75 Organic store lambs. May born. Charmoise Hill and Southdown rams on Mules and Mule crosses. Been wormed and had Clizkin. Organic certified with OF&G. Located Essex/Suffolk border.	Helen Theobald	07786 863376	White Colne, Colchester, Essex
Store lambs	Texel x store lambs. Texel x ewe lambs. Well grown good conformation. Vaccinated with heptavac p plus	Lyndon	07985 604440	Llandrindod Wells, Powys
Organic mule tegs	Sheep for sale, approx 300 OF&G organic north of England ewe tegs.	Mike Roberts	07774 208040	Heathfield, East Sussex
North of England Mule Gimmer Lambs	North of England Mule Gimmer Lambs. 500 Organic North of England Mule Gimmer Lambs, born 2018. Topping and Running lambs, ready end of August. Phone to guarantee availability.	Mark Jenkinson	07970 325502	Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
North of England mule ewe lambs	North of England mule lambs for sale. Please phone for details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
Swaledale ewe lambs	Swaledale ewe lambs for sale. Please phone for details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
Store Lambs for sale	100 Suffolk cross mixed lambs will split. Hepavac p and wormed. Born on a hill farm. 25-30 kg ave weight. £50	Trevor Wheeler	07799 681134 / 01588 640298	Newtown, Shropshire
Organic lambs	Approx 100 registered organic and pasture fed texel cross lambs. For whole or split batch, including well grown gimmer lambs which could be sold as topping lambs.	Kathleen Taylor	07980 305899	Saltburn-by-the-Sea, N Yorks
Organic Ewes	Approx 40 mixed organic ewes for sale mostly texel or texel x Jacob or Welsh mountain. Lovely ewes all lambed no problem aging between 1 and 3 shear. Only selling as stopping keeping sheep.	Kathleen Taylor	07980 305899	Saltburn-by-the-Sea, N Yorks
NZ Romney ewe lambs	NZ Romney and NZ Romney x Aberfield ewe lambs ,all homebred and born out doors.	Alan Derryman	07976 624611	Honiton, Devon

CATTLE FOR SALE				
Stabiliser Heifers	17 Stabiliser organic in calf heifers to Stabiliser bull. health status, vaccinated for BVD and Lepto. Been TB tested ready to go, will split	Graeme Burrowes	01743 884288 / 07917 404151	Welshpool, Powys
Suckler Calves	60 charolais x suckled calves born March/April out of beef cows, angus cross, s devon cross, lim cross etc. Well grown ready now all dehorned. Please telephone for details.	Ian Smith	01565 86155 / 07779 987580	Launceston, Cornwall
Store Cattle	14 around 17 month old charolais and shorthorn cross steers and heifers 7 of each, out off beef cows by pedigree bulls well grown. Please telephone for details.	Ian Smith	01566 86155 / 07779 987580	Launceston, Cornwall
Angus Store Cattle	Aged 14 months to 2 years, male and female placid store cattle for sale. Pedigree bulls Duster, Evor and Ploughman were used as sire. We are a small farm with no more than 20 animals, so they are used to handling. Available to view in fields now. Please telephone for details, no email address - photos can be sent by post.	William Deaville	01773 550269	Belper, Derbyshire
In calf stabiliser heifers	20 well grown quiet cattle, 15/16 months old. Been running with stabiliser bull since 20/7/18. Will PD in calf, available mid-September onwards. TB tested. Will split.	Graeme Burrowes	01743 884288 / 07917 404151	Welshpool, Powys
15 beef cows and calves	15 semital and saler cross young cows and angus calves hardy cows 1500 pounds	A smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
Hereford steers and Heifers	5 month old pedigree poll Hereford steers and heifers available out of exceptional bull with excellent growth and conformation	Mark Steele	07717 366560 / 07717 366561	Pershore, Worcs
Quick sale AA X MRI bulls	6 bulls (dob July to September 2016) priced for quick sale. TB tested and ready to go.	Adam Stanyer	07475 648149	South Molton, Devon
Store cattle	18 Charolaise x an shorthorn cross 18 month old well grown all out off proper beef cows south devon cross angus etc	Ian Smith	01566 86155 / 07779 987580	Launceston, Cornwall
Heifers	12-14 mo Angus cross semital and saler heifers make good cows 700 a piece	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
Beef shorthorn in calf heifers	6 in calf pedigree beef shorthorn heifers. Running with the bull 3 months. SAC health scheme.	Martin Reynolds	07966 371558	Barry, Glamorgan
Cattle Wintering	We have space for between 15 and 20 cattle for winter in cubicles	Steven Gunn	07776 382375	Kendal, Cumbria
Store Cattle	Cattle for sale. Limousin x and Aberdeen Angus x. 12 to 18 months of age. Please phone for details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
2 x beef stores	Well grown british blue x heifer 2/17 and belted galloway x heifer 11/16 for sale and finishing, from TB4, bvd and johnes control dairy herd.	Ian	01892 824778	Tunbridge wells, Kent
Store Cattle	Approximately 15 female and 20 male organic store cattle in Bedfordshire, AAX, born March to July 2017. TB 4. Farm Assured. Home bred. Named sire. Soil Association: G7011. Photos available.	Robert Harrison	07814 250901	Bedford, Beds
Suckled calves	Angus cross out of semital and saler x beef cows steers and heifers	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall

LAND & GRAZING FOR SALE				
Silage ground for rent	I have second cut silage ground for sale first cut was taken in the second half of June and due to the dry weather will not be ready until the second half of September. For more details please contact Peter by phone.	Peter Davies	01691 652853	Oswestry, Shropshire
19 acres organic grazing	19 acres organic grazing. Well fenced, water and power available. Can offer daily shepherding most days if required. Very light land so suitable for grazing all year. Hay storage available.	Heather Thorogood	01526 832574	Sleaford, Lincs

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE				
Share farming opportunity	Share farming opportunity/potential tenancy on a very successful 100 acre organic poultry layer farm. Our eggs are currently packed on site by ourselves and marketed under our own brand. There is plenty of scope to run another livestock enterprise alongside the hens. The farm is situated in West Sussex with plenty of local accommodation. Please contact for more details.	Rupert Langmead	07973 621678	Flansham, West Sussex
Organic Smallholding for sale	Organic Smallholding, County Clare, Ireland. Renovated Stone cottage on 11 acres, polytunnels, lots of fruit trees, grassland. Price: 240,000 Euros. For further details contact Pete.	Pete	00353 65 6835924	Tulla, County Clare

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
52 Exceptional Organic Dairy Cows (Holstein Friesian)	52 Exceptional Organic Dairy Cows (Holstein Friesian). Averaging 8500 litres, 4.2% butterfat, 3.3% protein. Young cows with 37 of them having had 3 calves or less, calving all year round. Cows that are served are to a British Blue. A seriously good herd for sale as a whole.	David Bostock	07734 808050	Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
Organic Dairy Cows and Young Stock	We have the following in calf dairy stock for sale; 17 Friesian and crossbred cows, due to calve late Feb and March to reg AA and BB, various ages from 1st to 4th lactation. 5 Friesian heifers due to calve late Feb and March to reg AA. 3 Friesian heifers due to calve late Nov to reg AA. Well grown, good grazing stock. No issues with BVD or IBR, Johnes tested quarterly (clear at present), TB tested, Lepto and blackleg vaccinated.	Hywel James	01239 682225 or 07855 931882	Cardigan, Pembrokeshire
Organic pedigree dairy stock for sale	Selection of Holstein Friesian Pedigree Milkers, In-calf heifers and young stock for sale.	Rob Carr	07808 586950	Carlisle, Cumbria
Jan/Feb Calving Cows	14 in calf Friesian x cows due Jan /Feb to Angus or Dairy shorthorn bull. For sale due to outside calving block.	Jeremy Barlow	07901 687625	Sandbach, Cheshire
In-calf heifers for sale	26 autumn calving - mostly in October - holstein/friesian / friesian heifers for sale. Will split. Vaccinated for lungworm, leptospirosis and BVD. Cubicle trained. All incalf to pedigree hereford bull. Sires; Benloyal, Umpire, McCormick and Ingenious. Herd average 6736 L 4418 L from forage. Please call for further info.	Ian Green	01747 811207 / 07939 231738	Shaftesbury, Dorset
Dairy heifer calves	10 weaned friesian and shorthorn x. 10 4 -6 weeks friesian. Please phone for further details	Jeremy Barlow	07901 687625	Middlewich, Cheshire

FEEDSTUFFS & FORAGE FOR SALE				
Organic Oats	30t 2018 season organic feed oats. Will split. Delivery possible on smaller distances.	Wayne Copp	07818 011591	Barnstaple, Devon
Feed Wheat - Delivery Nationwide	We have good quality organic feed wheat available. We are able to deliver nationwide. Please call or email if this is of interest.	Gemma Clarke	01529 421081	Sleaford, Lincs
Organic Meadow Hay for sale	We did not lamb this year so our hay is for sale. Lovely rich mix Organic Hay. 9.67 acres in total. Available for cutting as of 1st July 2018. Can arrange for cutting, baling and loading. MK17 area. Good access	Farokh Khoroooshi	01296 711107	Buckingham, Bucks
Organic clamp silage & haylage for sale	We have one clamp of 2017 silage for sale (analysis available) and expect to have some haylage over the coming weeks. Please get in touch for more information	Jo Luxton	07786 067437	Bideford, Devon
meadow hay	Large quantity of organic meadow hay available in 6 string bales. All made good in June and July. Can deliver locally if needed. Good access for lorries and good loading.	jamie cullimore	07717 534933	Gloucester, Glos
Organic barley for sale	Approximately 14 tons organic barley for sale. Also similar quantity organic beans. Could deliver locally	Colin Maddever	07899 964605	Liskeard, Cornwall
Second cut silage	We have for sale, approx 60 round bales of second cut silage, made late August and made well. Baled with John Deere baler so good dense heavy bales. 6 layers of wrap. Could deliver locally.	jamie cullimore	07717 534933	Gloucester, Glos
Organic Bran	From 100 kg. In paper sacks or large tote bags. Pick up or delivery can be arranged	Billie Wilkinson	01661 886119	Stamfordham, Northumberland
Organic Wheat Straw for Sale	80 wheat straw bales for sale, 8 foot long about 250 kgs in weight.	Neil Cairns	07779 570660	Romsey, Hampshire
Hay, haylage & clamp silage	Hay-6ft and 7ft bales, Haylage 4.5ft bales (80x90-6 layers wrap), Clamp silage (recent analysis)	Ollie Field	07775 662427	Cranleigh, Surrey
Sheep Grazing wanted	Sheep grazing needed devon or cornwall	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
Feed Oats	Approx 20 tonnes organic spring oats (Canyon) near Monmouth - buyer collects.	Teona Dorrien-Smith	01600 780501	Monmouth, Monmouthshire

OTHER LIVESTOCK FOR SALE				
Organic Dairy Goats for sale	20 Dairy goats for sale. Mostly anglo nubian x saanen. Please call for more information	Sylvan Friend	07775 617563	Newton Abbott, Devon
Organic goslings for sale	Fully organic goslings from our fully organic breeding flock. Heavy strain Embden-type.	John Burns	01769 520506	Chulmleigh, Devon

Items wanted

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CATTLE WANTED				
Heifer Rearing Available	Due to end of contract spring 2019 space available for up to 300 Heifers. Experienced at Heifer Rearing an ex-Dairy Farmer, farm fully organic since 2002. Loose housing and summer grazing. Contract available. Tailor-made to suit your system. References available.	Simon Hayes	07711 616303	Shifnal, Shropshire
Pedigree/pure bred Angus	Looking for half a dozen pedigree or pure bred Angus cows with calves at foot. Must be good Angus cows/heifers with any age calf on. High health status is a must!	Greg	07811 538376	Buxton, Derbyshire
Shed keep	Wanted. Someone with silage to winter some quiet cattle - devon or cornwall	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall

SHEEP WANTED				
Organic store lambs wanted	Organic store lambs wanted in Pembrokeshire	Justin Scale	01437 781247	Haverfordwest, Pems

FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE WANTED				
Wanted - Organic Hay	We are looking for either big square bale or big round bale hay	Clyde & Helen	01244 570864	Wrexham
Wanted Organic Hay	Organic & Conventional Hay in square bales. Will collect.	David Thorley	07973 860211	Doveridge, Derbys

LAND & GRAZING WANTED				
Winter Grazing wanted	We are looking for winter grazing for Welsh Mountain lambs from November-End of April. Must be well fenced	Huw Evans	07977 505855	Lake Vyrnwy, Mid Wales, Powys
Winter Grazing for sheep	Winter grazing for sheep in East Devon area.	Alan Derryman	07976 624611	Honiton, Devon
Winter grazing wanted for sheep	Winter grazing for sheep wanted. Please phone.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
Sheep Grazing wanted	Sheep grazing needed devon or cornwall	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall

MISCELLANEOUS				
Storage and Order Processing	We are an OF&G accredited Fulfillment warehouse. Processing orders on all major sales platforms including Amazon, eBay, Groupon, Not on the High Street and processing orders for wholesale high street and TV shopping channels. We are always looking for partners looking to store their ambient goods and to support them by processing their orders same day for them. With everything from wine, cosmetics, shoes, supplements, oils, pet/animal feeds, garden/home wares as well as many other items. We want to grow and only with your success do we guarantee ours. If you are looking for stock storage and logistics help we move goods all over the UK and internationally on a daily basis.	Steve Adamson	01242 802140	Gloucester, Glos



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